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Parentpowr@aol.com on 09/25/2001 09:18:33 PM

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To: YMP_SR@ymp.gov
cc:

Subject: Attention: Carol Hanlon--RE:Yucca Mountain and Nuclear Waste Shipments

Part of Records Package / Supplement / Correction



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September 25, 2001

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To whom it may concern;

I am very concerned about the possibility of high-level nuclear waste shipments traveling through my community. It is my understanding that we here in St. Louis, Missouri could see as many as thirty years worth of shipments, of highly toxic spent fuel from over thirty reactors, heading to storage at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. It is extremely dangerous to consider moving this volatile waste through population centers. I cannot accept the DOE's assertion that there is no possibility of an accident. And any accident at all would be a serious threat to our community.

The recent horrible tragedy in New York proves that terrorists must be considered when weighing the safety of these shipments.

Each shipment would carry an immense load of VERY hot nuclear waste. And there could be at least a shipment a day for over thirty years. We have seen that terrorists have no respect for human life and can be very inventive and persistent killers. There is no way to completely safeguard thousands of shipments that would travel thousands of miles across the heart of our country. The risk to our neighborhoods and the communities all along the route is just too great.

We must remember the effect the recent train derailment, May 31st, 2001, here in Webster Groves had on our community. And that was a dumping of coal onto the street. The shipments could travel over those same rails. What if that train derailed right in the heart of Webster Groves, or any other community? What if it more than derailed? Serious accidents do happen, and there is no guarantee that a very serious accident is not going to happen. We all know how dedicated and capable our emergency response workers are, but there is no community level emergency response team that is trained and equipped to respond to a major high-level nuclear waste spill or explosion.

The proposed storage site, Yucca Mountain, Nevada, is considered by many experts to be unsuitable for the permanent storage of this type of deadly material. And the site would have to be stable for tens of thousands of years, or more, before the radioactive waste stored there becomes much less toxic. What a huge mess we would be leaving future generations. And the high-level radioactive waste may have to be moved again in the future because of the unsuitability of Yucca Mountain. The state of Nevada does not want to store this waste. Who can blame them?

Each reactor site is already contaminated and has a system in place for monitoring (as much as is possible) the high-level radioactive wastes stored in the facility. The sites should be updated and fortified for safety and security. The reactors should cease producing nuclear waste until the time there is a safe, effective and permanent storage facility, and should store their own radioactive wastes until that time. It has been said that "the first radioactive waste was produced here in St. Louis over fifty years ago, and we still have no idea of what to do with that first cupful".

Please let the Department of Energy and your local, statewide and national legislators know that you do not want to place your family, home or community at risk. Many highly respected scientists and nuclear waste experts think this faulty plan to move thousands of tons of high-level radioactive waste through our backyards for the next thirty years would be, at best, dangerous and, at the worst, deadly.

Send your comments before the October 5th deadline to:

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Sincerely,

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